

## Delegate Report of 69<sup>th</sup> Virtual Boule (Part II)

The 69<sup>th</sup> Boule (part II) was held virtually July 12-16, 2021. Unlike the Southeastern Regional conference, I found the Boule platform more challenging to navigate and during several sessions, my screen froze, and it was necessary to close out and began the sign in process all over again. Overall, however, I felt the information received was insightful and useful, and the singing and meditations were very uplifting.

I attended workshops on Buildings and Properties, Wills and Trusts, and “Are you ready for retirement”. I also attended the plenary sessions. The Buildings and Properties workshop focused on things that chapters should consider when exploring the purchase of property. One important consideration is the type of legal entity that will be utilized to make the purchase. According to the presenters, a recent survey revealed that 50 chapters reported properties. Of these, 35 were owned by Foundations, while the others were purchased utilizing other corporate structures. Within the Southeastern Region, six chapters reported properties. Chapters were encouraged to familiarize themselves with the Sorority’s recent publication “Chapter & Foundation Fundamentals” when deciding on the exact type of legal entity to utilize in making the purchase. The location of the property, an inspection of the property, whether there is room for expansion, and management of the property were other questions that chapters are encouraged to consider.

The Wills & Trusts session offered solid information about establishing your estate plan, but did not include any information/suggestions about ways to help sustain the chapter and contribute to its financial stability by including the chapter in your estate plan. Likewise, the Retirement session offered useful information about investing and saving for retirement, but there was not much emphasis on the non-financial piece, namely exploring ways to utilize your time and talents in retirement as it relates to the Sorority.

During the plenary sessions, Madame Supreme discussed some of the accomplishments during her tenure. The documentary detailing the history of the Sorority was discussed. Fifty percent of the profits from the film will go to EAF. Also highlighted was the fact that for three years in a row, the sorority has raised a million dollars in a day for HBCUs. Additionally, the Sorority targeted vaccines, and provided over 400 vaccines to people in rural Mississippi. The Sorority’s mammogram bus is scheduled to provide mammograms to women in Mississippi this October.

Another highlight was the fact that 13,500 Sorors reactivated in 2021, and that the Sorority has over 100,000 active members. While Covid necessitated a pause on many sorority activities, the Sorority developed a modified MIP process. The undergraduate MIP process was seven days, spread out over three weeks, while the graduate MIP process included two face to face meetings. 80 undergraduate chapters conducted the modified MIP intake process and approximately 1255 new undergraduate candidates were accepted into the Sorority under the modified MIP intake process.

Additionally, it was noted that the Sorority has produced a chapter disaster relief guide to aid chapters in dealing with disasters. The Sorority has also established an emergency relief fund that will aid Sorors dealing with disasters. 100 percent of the monies contributed to the fund will go towards aiding sorors in need. It was reported that during the last year, the Sorority provided financial assistance to 250 sorors impacted by disasters.

The Sorority conducted a Covid-19 survey among the membership, and approximately 27,000 sorors responded to the questionnaire. 93 percent of those responding reported that they are fully vaccinated. In addition, a Special License Plate Task Force was formed to study the issue of the manner in which special license plates are handled in those states that permit them. The study found that the practices differ greatly. In some states, the Sorority receives some monies from the sale of the plates, whereas in other states, the money goes to the state, or select non-profits. The Task Force is preparing a written report to document its findings.

Several resolutions were presented during the plenary. The resolutions focused on 1) police reform; 2) support for the LGBTQ community; 3) opposing voter suppression; 4) commendation to Vice President Harris; and 5) commendation to the New Orleans Host Committee.

The Sorority also voted on several proposed amendments. The Sorority voted against the proposed amendment that would have changed the term of the regional director to four years. The Sorority voted in favor of 1) Name enhancement for the Connection Committee; 2) Change in the composition of the Building and Property Committee; 3) Change in the composition of the Technology Committee; 4) adding Risk Management as a standing committee, 5) adding language which clarifies that that chapters are not free-standing organizations and cannot enter into contracts over \$100,000 without the approval from the corporate office, 6) adding new life membership provision for active Sorors who have been a member of the Sorority at least 75 years may obtain life membership by application to the Corporate Office without payment of additional fees, and 7) the addition of a provision that clarifies that bylaw amendments adopted at the Boule, that affect chapters, shall be added to the chapter bylaws without having to follow the amendment process noted in the chapter bylaws. The proposed amendment regarding co-sponsors was withdrawn.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/Soror Sonja Bivins

